

Diary

Every Day 1:00 p.m.	Pray for one person for one minute at one o'clock.
Saturday 4 th April	Fasting – Please pray that God will bind the principalities and powers that seek to dominate Basingstoke.
Sunday 5 th April 10:30 a.m. Popley Fields	We will be Breaking Bread. After the service, we will continue with a meal.
Thursday 9 th April	Easter – All Night Fellowship This is always a great time of fellowship, if you can not manage all night then please come for an hour or two.
Sunday 12 th April	Easter Sunday
Saturday 18 th to Sunday 19 th April	District Women's Seminar
Sunday 19 th April 4:00 pm Popley Fields	Youth Meeting
Saturday 25 th April 9:30 am	Mens Breakfast
Saturday 2 nd May	Fasting
Sunday 3 rd May 10:30 a.m. Popley Fields	We will be Breaking Bread. After the service, we will continue with a meal.
Saturday 9 th May 9:30 am	Ladies Breakfast
Friday 12 th to Sunday 14 th June	District Convention

Please make a special effort to attend as many of our meetings as you can especially the Prayer Meeting and Bible Studies. Sharing time together in Fellowship is important and helps us all to Grow Spiritually.

“We who had sweet fellowship together” Psalm 55:14

NTCOG NEWS

April 2009

Please read this newsletter carefully, make a note of the regular meetings, the special dates and make every effort to attend.

Our Mission

To present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the local community in a powerful, practical and relevant way.

To encourage every member of the Church to develop their God given ministry and to fulfil their potential.

Weekly Meetings

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
Popley Fields Community Centre
Carpenters Down
Popley
RG24 9AE

Monday – Hour of Power

7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Home Groups

Tuesday and Wednesday
7:30 pm

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Whatever Became of Evangelism?

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month and year after year, those who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means, defended fishing as an occupation and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen.

These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings for local fishing headquarters. The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn't do, however; they didn't fish.

In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. The board was formed by those who had the great vision and courage to speak about fishing, to define fishing, to promote the idea of fishing in faraway streams and lakes where many other fish of different colours lived. Also the board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, to decide what new streams should be thought about. But the staff and committee members did not fish.

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centres were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years, courses were offered on the needs of the fish, the nature of fish, how to define fish, the psychological reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in "fishology." But the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing.

Further, the fishermen built large printing houses to publish fishing guides. Presses were kept busy night and day to produce materials solely devoted to fishing methods, equipment and programs, to arrange and

encourage meetings, to talk about fishing. A speaker's bureau was also provided to schedule special speakers on the subject of fishing.

After one stirring meeting on "The Necessity of Fishing," one young fellow left the meeting and went fishing. The next day he reported that he had caught two outstanding fish. He was honoured for his excellent catch and scheduled to visit all the big meetings possible to tell how he did it. So he quit his fishing in order to have time to tell about the experience to the other fishermen. He was also placed on the Fishermen's General Board as a person having considerable experience.

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who don't fish were not really fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. Is a person a fisherman if year after year he never catches a fish? After all, were they not following the Master who said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19)? Is one following if he isn't fishing?

Adapted from John M. Drescher, "A Plea for Fishing," Pulpit Digest, July/August 1978.

Poet's Corner

Beaten, whipped and scourged
A crown of thorns on His head
God's Son nailed to the tree
Dying for you and me

Obedient to His Father's will
His own will laid down to fill
His Father's wish that all men
Who believe will go to heaven

Joan Macintosh

Gift Aid

If you are a UK Tax Payers then the Government will give us 25 pence for every pound that you give so please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes for your tithe and offering.